

Remarks/Arguments

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested. By the present amendment, claims 1, 21, and 41 have been amended to recite that the radially expandable support member extends substantially the length of the central lumen. Support for this limitation can be found in claim 57.

Below is a discussion of the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, 41-45, 47 and 48, the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 4, 8, 12-14, 46, and 49, the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 15-17, 19, 20, 50-52, 55, 57, 58-63, 65, 61-63, and 66, the U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 18, 53, and 64, the U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 21-23, 25-27, and 29-31, the U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 24, 28, 32-34, the U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of 35-37, 39, 40, 56, and 67, and the U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claim 38.

1. 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, 41-45, 47 and 48

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, 41-45, 47 and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,617,932 to Kornberg. The Office Action states that Kornberg, in figure 1, shows a first end having means for laterally supporting the first end, a furcated second including at least two branches, each of the two branches including a longitudinal support means. The furcated second end being substantially free of an expandable support member and anchoring means.

Claim 1, as noted above, has been amended. As amended claim 1, recites a modular endovascular prosthesis comprising a first component. The first component includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. The means comprises a radially expandable support member. A furcated second end including at least two branches that extend from an intersection of the furcated second end, each of the at least two branches includes a longitudinal support means and a branch lumen in fluid communication with the central lumen of the first end. The furcated second end is substantially free of a radially expandable support member. An anchoring means secures the first end within a vasculature.

Claim 1 is patentable over Kornberg because Kornberg does not disclose a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Kornberg teaches and shows that a flexible ring is provided at the upper end of the graft. A flexible ring does not extend substantially along the length of the central lumen. In contrast, the first end of the first component has a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Thus, Kornberg does not teach all of the limitations of claim 1 and allowance of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and further recites that the first end has an inner surface that defines the central lumen. The inner surface facilitates non-turbulent fluid flow through the central lumen. As discussed above with respect to claim 1, Kornberg does not disclose a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Thus, claim 2 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies discussed with respect to claim 1 and for the limitations recited in claim 2.

Claim 3 depends from claim 2 and further recites that the first end includes a graft layer. As discussed above with respect to claim 1, Kornberg does not disclose a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Thus, claim 3 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies discussed with respect to claim 1 and for the limitations recited in claim 3.

Claim 5 depends from claim 3 and further recites that the means for laterally supporting the first end is attached to the outer surface of the graft layer of the first end. As discussed above with respect to claim 1, Kornberg does not disclose a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Thus, claim 5 is allowable because of the

aforementioned deficiencies discussed with respect to claim 1 and for the limitations recited in claim 5.

Claim 6 depends from claim 1 and further recites that the means for laterally supporting the first end comprises a radially expandable stent. As discussed above with respect to claim 1, Kornberg does not disclose a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Thus, claim 6 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies discussed with respect to claim 1 and for the limitations recited in claim 6.

Claim 7 depends from claim 1 and further recites that the first end and the second end extend along a longitudinal axis and the intersection lies in a plane perpendicular to the longitudinal axis. As discussed above with respect to claim 1, Kornberg does not disclose a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Thus, claim 7 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies discussed with respect to claim 1 and for the limitations recited in claim 7.

Claim 9 depends from claim 1 and further recites that each of the at least two branches includes a graft layer. As discussed above with respect to claim 1, Kornberg does not disclose a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Thus, claim 9 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies discussed with respect to claim 1 and for the limitations recited in claim 9.

Claim 10 depends from claim 9 and further recites that the longitudinal support means of each of said branches is attached to the outer surface of the graft layer of each of said branches. As discussed above with respect to claim 1, Kornberg does not disclose a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Thus,

claim 10 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies discussed with respect to claim 1 and for the limitations recited in claim 10.

Claim 11 depends from claim 1 and further recites that each of the longitudinal support means for the at least two branches comprises a rod, and that each of the rods extend substantially the length of the branches. As discussed above with respect to claim 1, Kornberg does not disclose a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Thus, claim 11 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies discussed with respect to claim 1 and for the limitations recited in claim 11.

Claim 41 recites a modular endovascular prosthesis comprising a component. The component includes a trunk portion having a first end, a second end, and a trunk lumen extending between the first end and the second end. The trunk portion includes means for laterally supporting said trunk portion that extends substantially the length of the trunk lumen. The means comprises a radially expandable support member. A furcated portion is connected to the second end of the trunk portion. The furcated portion includes at least two branches that extend from an intersection of the furcated portion. Each of the at least two branches have longitudinal support means and a branch lumen in fluid communication with the trunk lumen. The furcated portion is substantially free of a radially expandable support member. An anchoring means is connected to the first end of the trunk portion. The anchoring means secures the first end within a vasculature.

Claim 41 is patentable over Kornberg because Kornberg does not disclose a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a trunk portion having a longitudinally extending trunk lumen and a radially expandable support member for laterally supporting the trunk portion substantially along the length of the trunk portion. Thus, claim 41 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies discussed with respect to claim 1 and for the limitations recited in claim 41.

Claim 42 depends from claim 41 and further recites that the trunk portion has an inner surface that defines said trunk lumen. The inner surface facilitates

non-turbulent fluid flow through the trunk lumen. As discussed above with respect to claim 41, Kornberg does not disclose a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a trunk portion having a longitudinally extending trunk lumen and a radially expandable support member for laterally supporting the trunk portion substantially along the length of the trunk portion. Thus, claim 42 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies discussed with respect to claim 41 and for the limitations recited in claim 42.

Claim 43 depends from claim 41 and further recites that the trunk portion includes a graft layer. The means for laterally supporting the trunk portion is attached to the graft layer of the trunk portion. As discussed above with respect to claim 41, Kornberg does not disclose a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a trunk portion having a longitudinally extending trunk lumen and a radially expandable support member for laterally supporting the trunk portion substantially along the length of the trunk portion. Thus, claim 43 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies discussed with respect to claim 41 and for the limitations recited in claim 43.

Claim 44 depends from claim 41 and further recites that the means for laterally supporting the trunk portion comprises a radially expandable stent. As discussed above with respect to claim 41, Kornberg does not disclose a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a trunk portion having a longitudinally extending trunk lumen and a radially expandable support member for laterally supporting the trunk portion substantially along the length of the trunk portion. Thus, claim 44 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies discussed with respect to claim 41 and for the limitations recited in claim 44.

Claim 45 depends from claim 41 and further recites that the trunk portion and the furcated portion extend along a longitudinal axis and said intersection lies in a plane perpendicular to said longitudinal axis. As discussed above with respect to claim 41, Kornberg does not disclose a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a trunk portion having a longitudinally extending trunk lumen and a radially expandable support member for laterally supporting the trunk portion substantially along the length of the trunk portion. Thus, claim 45 is allowable because of the

aforementioned deficiencies discussed with respect to claim 41 and for the limitations recited in claim 45.

Claim 47 depends from claim 41 and further recites that each of the at least two branches includes a graft layer. The longitudinal support means of each of the branches is attached to the graft layers of the branches. As discussed above with respect to claim 41, Kornberg does not disclose a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a trunk portion having a longitudinally extending trunk lumen and a radially expandable support member for laterally supporting the trunk portion substantially along the length of the trunk portion. Thus, claim 47 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies discussed with respect to claim 41 and for the limitations recited in claim 47.

Claim 48 depends from claim 41 and further recites that each of the longitudinal support means for the at least two branches comprises a rod, each of the rods extend substantially the length of the branches. As discussed above with respect to claim 41, Kornberg does not disclose a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a trunk portion having a longitudinally extending trunk lumen and a radially expandable support member for laterally supporting the trunk portion substantially along the length of the trunk portion. Thus, claim 48 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies discussed with respect to claim 41 and for the limitations recited in claim 48.

2. The 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 4, 8, 12-14, 46, and 49.

Claims 4, 8, 12-14, 46, and 49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kornberg in view of Pinheiro. The Office Action suggests that Kornberg fails to disclose that the polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) is expanded. Pinheiro, however, teaches the PTFE should be expanded to provide a flexible strong graft.

Claim 4 depends from claim 3 and further recites that the graft layer of the first end comprises a biocompatible fabric that is formed from expanded polytetrafluoroethylene. Claim 4 is patentable over Kornberg in view of Pinheiro because Kornberg in view of Pinheiro do not disclose or suggest a modular

endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Kornberg, as discussed above, teaches and shows that a flexible ring is provided at the upper end of the graft. A flexible ring does not extend substantially along the length of the central lumen. Pinheiro teaches a radially expandable stent connected a first stent of a graft. The stent, however, does not extend substantially the length of the graft. Thus, Kornberg in view of Pinheiro do no teach all of the limitations of claim 4 and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 4 is respectfully requested.

Claim 8 depends from claim 1 and further recites that the at least two branches have a substantially equal length. As discussed above respect to claim 1 and claim 4, Kornberg in view of Pinheiro do not disclose or suggest a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Thus, claim 8 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies discussed with respect to claim 1 and for the limitations recited in claim 8.

Claim 12 depends from claim 1 and further recites that the anchoring means comprises a bare stent and that the bare stent extends from the first end. As discussed above respect to claim 1 and claim 4, Kornberg in view of Pinheiro do not disclose or suggest a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Thus, claim 12 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies discussed with respect to claim 1 and for the limitations recited in claim 12.

Claim 13 depends from claim 12 and further recites that the bare stent includes wall-engaging members that prevent migration of the endovascular prosthesis within the vasculature. As discussed above respect to claim 1 and claim 4, Kornberg in view of Pinheiro do not disclose or suggest a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the

length of the central lumen. Thus, claim 13 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies discussed with respect to claim 1 and for the limitations recited in claim 13.

Claim 14 depends from claim 13 and further recites that the wall-engaging members comprise at least two axially aligned barbs. As discussed above respect to claim 1 and claim 4, Kornberg in view of Pinheiro do not disclose or suggest a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Thus, claim 14 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies discussed with respect to claim 1 and for the limitations recited in claim 14.

Claim 46 depends from claim 41 and further recites that each of the at least two branches has a substantially equal length. Claim 41 is patentable over Kornberg in view of Pinheiro because Kornberg in view of Pinheiro do not disclose a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a trunk portion having a longitudinally extending trunk lumen and a radially expandable support member for laterally supporting the trunk portion substantially along the length of the trunk portion. Kornberg, as discussed above, teaches and shows that a flexible ring is provided at the upper end of the graft. A flexible ring does not extend substantially along the length of the central lumen. Pinheiro teaches a radially expandable stent connected a first stent of a graft. The stent, however, does not extend substantially the length of the graft. Thus, claim 46 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies discussed with respect to claim 41 and for the limitations recited in claim 46.

Claim 49 depends from claim 41 and further recites that the anchoring means comprises a bare stent. The bare stent permits radial flow of fluids through the bare stent. As discussed above respect to claim 41, Kornberg in view of Pinheiro do not disclose a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a trunk portion having a longitudinally extending trunk lumen and a radially expandable support member for laterally supporting the trunk portion substantially along the length of the trunk portion. Thus, claim 49 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies discussed with respect to claim 41 and for the limitations recited in claim 49.

3. The 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 15-17, 19, 20, 50-52, 55, 57, 58-63, 65, 61-63, and 66

Claims 15-17, 19, 20, 50-52, 55, 57, 58-63, 65, 61-63, and 66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Kornberg in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,099,558 to White et al.

Claim 15 depends from claim 1 and further recites that the endovascular prosthesis includes at least two outflow limbs. The at least two outflow limbs each have a first end and a second end, and a lumen extending between the first end and second end. The first ends of each of the at least two outflow limbs are connected to the at least two branches to allow fluid flow from the at least two branches through the outflow limbs.

Claim 15 is patentable over Kornberg in view of White et al. because Kornberg in view of White et al. provide no motivation or suggestion (1) to provide at least two outflow limbs that are connected to the branches of Kornberg and (2) to form a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen.

The Office Action states that Kornberg fails to disclose outflow limbs, however, White et al. teach that outflow limbs should be attached to a bifurcated stent/graft so that the flow passageways within the assembly reach the iliac arteries and that it would be obvious to include the outflow limbs with the Kornberg bifurcated sten graft so it would have this advantage.

It would not be obvious to include the outflow limbs of White et al. with the graft of Kornberg because the graft limbs of Kornberg et al. already extend to the iliac arteries and the proposed modification of Kornberg would change the principle of operation of Kornberg. The bifurcated graft disclosed in Kornberg has two graft limbs that extend into the iliac arteries. The graft limbs are provided in the iliac arteries with no mechanical attachment since downward flow of blood will keep the graft limbs in place. Thus, there is no need or advantage of using the outflow limb of White et al. with the graft of Kornberg. Moreover, by modifying the graft of Kornberg

to include such outflow limbs the principle of operation of the graft of Kornberg (i.e., providing graft limbs with no mechanical attachment) is changed.

Additionally, Kornberg and White provide no motivation to modify Kornberg to provide a stent that extends substantially the length of the graft in Kornberg. Kornberg utilizes a ring to maintain the first end of the graft open and struts to assure proper orientation of the graft in an artery. There is nothing Kornberg that suggests replacing the struts with a stent. White et al. teach providing a plurality of wire stents along a graft. White et al. neither suggests that these wire stents can be used in place of struts or with struts to support the trunk portion of a graft. Thus, White et al. neither teach that it is advantageous to modify a graft that includes struts, such as the graft in Kornberg, with wire stents.

Since there is no motivation or suggestion to combine the teachings of Kornberg and White et al. to achieve the invention recited in claim 15, it appears that the Office Action is using the present application as a template to piece together the claimed invention. It is impermissible to use the claimed invention as an instruction manual or "template" to piece together the teachings of the prior art so that the claimed invention is rendered obvious. *In re Fritch*, 972 F.2d 1260, 23 USPQ 2d 1780 (Fed. Cir. 1992). Thus, Kornberg in view of White et al. fail to teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 15; therefore, claim 15 is patentable.

Claim 16 depends from claim 15 and further recites that each of the at least two outflow limbs is tubular and includes a graft layer and an expandable support member. Each of the expandable support members of the outflow limbs being attached to the graft layers of the outflow limbs. As discussed above with respect to claim 15, Kornberg in view of White et al. provide no motivation or suggestion (1) to provide at least two outflow limbs that are connected to the branches of Kornberg and (2) to form a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Therefore, claim 16 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies in the rejection with respect to claim 15 and the specific limitations recited in claim 16.

Claim 17 depends from claim 16 and further recites that each of the first ends of the at least two outflow limbs includes at least two axially aligned barbs. The at least two axially aligned barbs preventing distal and proximal migration of said outflow limb when said outflow limb is connected to said branch. As discussed above with respect to claim 15, Kornberg in view of White et al. provide no motivation or suggestion (1) to provide at least two outflow limbs that are connected to the branches of Kornberg and (2) to form a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Therefore, claim 17 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies in the rejection with respect to claim 15 and the specific limitations recited in claim 17.

Claim 19 depends from claim 15 and further recites that each of the second ends of the at least two outflow limbs includes an anchoring means. As discussed above with respect to claim 15, Kornberg in view of White et al. provide no motivation or suggestion (1) to provide at least two outflow limbs that are connected to the branches of Kornberg and (2) to form a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Therefore, claim 19 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies in the rejection with respect to claim 15 and the specific limitations recited in claim 19.

Claim 20 depends from claim 15 and further recites that the second ends of the at least two outflow limbs are radially tapered. As discussed above with respect to claim 15, Kornberg in view of White et al. provide no motivation or suggestion (1) to provide at least two outflow limbs that are connected to the branches of Kornberg and (2) to form a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Therefore, claim 20 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies in the rejection with respect to claim 15 and the specific limitations recited in claim 20.

Claim 50 depends from claim 41 and further recites that the endovascular prosthesis comprises at least two outflow limbs. The at least two outflow limbs each

having a first end and a second end, and a lumen extending between said first end and second end. The first ends of each of the at least two outflow limbs are connected to the at least two branches to allow fluid flow from the at least two branches through the outflow limbs.

Claim 41 contains limitations similar to claims 15 and 1. As discussed above with respect to claim 15 and claim 1, Kornberg in view of White et al. provide no motivation or suggestion (1) to provide at least two outflow limbs that are connected to the branches of Kornberg and (2) to form a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a trunk portion and a radially expandable support member for laterally supporting the trunk portion substantially along its length. Therefore, claim 50 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies in the rejection with respect to claims 1 and 15 and the specific limitations recited in claim 50.

Claim 51 depends from claim 50 and further recites that each of the at least two outflow limbs is tubular and includes a graft layer and an expandable support member attached to the graft layer of said outflow limb. As discussed above with respect to claim 15 and claim 41, Kornberg in view of White et al. provide no motivation or suggestion (1) to provide at least two outflow limbs that are connected to the branches of Kornberg and (2) to form a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a trunk portion having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Therefore, claim 51 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies in the rejection with respect to claims 1 and 15 and the specific limitations recited in claim 51.

Claim 52 depends from claim 50 and further recites that each of the first ends of the at least two outflow limbs includes at least two axially aligned barbs. The at least two axially aligned barbs preventing distal and proximal migration of the outflow limb when the outflow limb is connected to the branch.

As discussed above with respect to claim 15 and claim 41, Kornberg in view of White et al. provide no motivation or suggestion (1) to provide at least two outflow limbs that are connected to the branches of Kornberg and (2) to form a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a trunk portion having a longitudinally

extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Therefore, claim 52 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies in the rejection with respect to claims 1 and 15 and the specific limitations recited in claim 52.

Claim 55 depends from claim 50 and further recites that each of the second ends of said at least two outflow limbs is radially tapered. As discussed above with respect to claim 15 and claim 41, Kornberg in view of White et al. provide no motivation or suggestion (1) to provide at least two outflow limbs that are connected to the branches of Kornberg and (2) to form a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a trunk portion having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Therefore, claim 55 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies in the rejection with respect to claims 15 and 41 and the specific limitations recited in claim 55.

Claim 57 recites a modular endovascular prosthesis that comprises a component. The component includes a trunk portion having a first end, a second end, a trunk lumen extending along a first longitudinal axis between the first end and the second end. The trunk portion includes a radially expandable tubular stent that extends substantially the length of the trunk portion. A furcated portion connects to the trunk portion and extends along the first longitudinal axis. The furcated portion includes at least two branches extending from an intersection lying in a plane perpendicular to the first longitudinal axis. Each of the at least two branches has a rod longitudinally extending substantially the length of each of the at least two branches and a branch lumen in fluid communication with the trunk lumen of the trunk portion. The furcated portion is substantially free of a radially expandable tubular stent. An anchoring means is connected to the first end of the trunk portion. The anchoring means is for securing the first end within a vasculature.

Claim 57 contains limitations similar to claims 15 and 1. As discussed above with respect to claim 15 and claim 41, Kornberg in view of White et al. provide no motivation or suggestion (1) to provide at least two outflow limbs that are connected to the branches of Kornberg and (2) to form a modular endovascular prosthesis that

includes a trunk portion having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Therefore, claim 57 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies in the rejection with respect to claims 15 and 41 and the specific limitations recited in claim 57.

Claim 58 depends from claim 57 and further recites that the trunk portion includes a graft layer. The radially expandable tubular stent is attached to the outer surface of the graft layer of the trunk portion. As discussed above with respect to claim 57, Kornberg in view of White et al. provide no motivation or suggestion (1) to provide at least two outflow limbs that are connected to the branches of Kornberg and (2) to form a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a trunk portion having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Therefore, claim 58 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies in the rejection with respect to claim 57 and the specific limitations recited in claim 58.

Claim 59 depends from claim 57 and further recites that each of the at least two branches has a substantially equal length. As discussed above with respect to claim 57, Kornberg in view of White et al. provide no motivation or suggestion (1) to provide at least two outflow limbs that are connected to the branches of Kornberg and (2) to form a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a trunk portion having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Therefore, claim 59 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies in the rejection with respect to claim 57 and the specific limitations recited in claim 59.

Claim 60 depends from claim 57 and further recites that each of the at least two branches includes a graft layer. The rod of the branches is attached to the graft layer of each of the at least two branches. As discussed above with respect to claim 57, Kornberg in view of White et al. provide no motivation or suggestion (1) to provide at least two outflow limbs that are connected to the branches of Kornberg and (2) to form a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a trunk portion having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting

the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Therefore, claim 60 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies in the rejection with respect to claim 57 and the specific limitations recited in claim 60.

Claim 61 depends from claim 57 and further recites that the endovascular prosthesis comprises at least two outflow limbs. The at least two outflow limbs each have a first end and a second end, and a lumen extending between the first end and second end. The first ends of each of the at least two outflow limbs are capable of being connected to the at least two branches to allow fluid flow from the at least two branches through the at outflow limbs. As discussed above with respect to claim 57, Kornberg in view of White et al. provide no motivation or suggestion (1) to provide at least two outflow limbs that are connected to the branches of Kornberg and (2) to form a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a trunk portion having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Therefore, claim 61 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies in the rejection with respect to claim 57 and the specific limitations recited in claim 61.

Claim 62 depends from claim 61 and further recites that each of the at least two outflow limbs is tubular and includes a graft layer and an expandable support member attached to the graft layer. As discussed above with respect to claim 57, Kornberg in view of White et al. provide no motivation or suggestion (1) to provide at least two outflow limbs that are connected to the branches of Kornberg and (2) to form a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a trunk portion having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Therefore, claim 62 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies in the rejection with respect to claim 57 and the specific limitations recited in claim 62.

Claim 63 depends from claim 61 and further recites that each of the first ends of the at least two outflow limbs includes at least two axially aligned barbs. The at least two axially aligned barbs preventing distal and proximal migration of the outflow limb when the outflow limb is connected to the branch. As discussed above with respect to claim 57, Kornberg in view of White et al. provide no motivation or

suggestion (1) to provide at least two outflow limbs that are connected to the branches of Kornberg and (2) to form a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a trunk portion having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Therefore, claim 63 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies in the rejection with respect to claim 57 and the specific limitations recited in claim 63.

Claim 65 depends from claim 61 and further recites that each of the second ends of the at least two outflow limbs includes an anchoring means. As discussed above with respect to claim 57, Kornberg in view of White et al. provide no motivation or suggestion (1) to provide at least two outflow limbs that are connected to the branches of Kornberg and (2) to form a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a trunk portion having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Therefore, claim 65 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies in the rejection with respect to claim 57 and the specific limitations recited in claim 65.

Claim 66 depends from claim 61 and further recites that each of the second ends of said at least two outflow limbs is radially tapered. As discussed above with respect to claim 57, Kornberg in view of White et al. provide no motivation or suggestion (1) to provide at least two outflow limbs that are connected to the branches of Kornberg and (2) to form a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a trunk portion having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Therefore, claim 66 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies in the rejection with respect to claim 57 and the specific limitations recited in claim 66.

4. **The 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 18, 53, and 64.**

Claims 18, 53, and 64 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kornberg in view of White et al. and Goicoechea et al.

Claims 18, 53, and 64 each recite the limitations that each of the first ends of the at least two outflow limbs is radially tapered. Claims 18, 53, 64, are patentable over Kornberg in view of White et al. and Goicoechea et al. because Kornberg in view of White et al. and Goicoechea et al. provide no motivation or suggestion (1) to provide at least two outflow limbs that are connected to the branches of Kornberg and (2) to form a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a trunk portion having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen.

As discussed above respect to claim 15, Kornberg in view of White et al. and Goicoechea et al. provide no motivation or suggestion to provide at least two outflow limbs that are connected to the branches of Kornberg and to form a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a trunk portion having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Goicoechea et al. teaches a bifurcated stent 10 that is covered with a graft layer as shown in Fig. 7. (Column 12, lines 53-56). Goicoechea et al. however do not provide a motivation or suggestion to modify the graft of Kornberg to provide an expandable support member that extend substantially the length of a central lumen of a first end of the graft and provide outflow limbs to attach the graft limbs of Kornberg to iliac arteries.

Thus, Kornberg in view of White et al. and Goicoechea et al. do not teach or suggest the limitations of claim 18, 53, and 64 and are therefore allowable.

5. **The 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 21-23, 25-27, and 29-31.**

Claims 21-23, 25-27, and 29-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kornberg in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,984,955 to Wisselink.

Claim 21 recites a modular endovascular prosthesis that comprises a component. The component includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the

length of the central lumen. The means comprises a radially expandable support member. The endovascular prosthesis also includes a furcated second end that includes at least three branches that extend from an intersection of the furcated second end. Each of the at least three branches includes a longitudinal support means and a branch lumen in fluid communication with the central lumen of the first end. The furcated second end is substantially free of a radially expandable support member. Anchoring means are further included for securing the first end within a vasculature.

Claim 21 is patentable over Kornberg in view of Wisselink because (1) Kornberg in view of Wisselink do not disclose or suggest a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen, and (2) Pinheiro in view of Wisselink do not teach or suggest that the at least three branches extend from an intersection of the second end.

As discussed above respect to claim 1, Kornberg teaches and shows that a flexible ring is provided at the upper end of the graft. A flexible ring does not extend substantially along the length of the central lumen. Moreover, Kornberg neither teaches nor suggests a prosthesis that includes at least three branches that extend from a second end of the furcated graft. Kornberg teaches only a bifurcated graft with no mention of providing additional branches.

Wisselink, which is relied on by the Office Action to show that at least three branches may be provided in grafts, does not teach or suggest that at least three branches extend from an intersection at the second end of the prosthesis. Wisselink, for example, in Fig. 1f teach that the branches extend from lateral positions on the prosthesis, not a second end and not from a common intersection. Thus, Wisselink can not be relied on to teach or suggest that at least three branches extend from an intersection at the second end of the prosthesis. Thus, Kornberg in view Wisselink do not teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 21. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 21 is respectfully requested.

Claim 22 depends from claim 21 and further recites that the first end has an inner surface that defines the central lumen. The inner surface facilitates

non-turbulent fluid flow through said central lumen. As discussed above with respect to claim 21, (1) Kornberg in view of Wisselink do not disclose or suggest a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen, and (2) Pinheiro in view of Wisselink do not teach or suggest that the at least three branches extend from an intersection of the second end. Thus, claim 22 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies discussed with respect to claim 21 for the limitations recited in claim 22.

Claim 23 depends from claim 22 and further recites that the first end includes a graft layer. As discussed above with respect to claim 21, (1) Kornberg in view of Wisselink do not disclose or suggest a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen, and (2) Pinheiro in view of Wisselink do not teach or suggest that the at least three branches extend from an intersection of the second end. Thus, claim 23 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies discussed with respect to claim 21 for the limitations recited in claim 23.

Claim 25 depends from claim 23 and further recites that the means for laterally supporting the first end is attached to the outer surface of the raft layer of said first end. As discussed above with respect to claim 21, (1) Kornberg in view of Wisselink do not disclose or suggest a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen, and (2) Kornberg in view of Wisselink do not teach or suggest that the at least three branches extend from an intersection of the second end. Thus, claim 25 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies discussed with respect to claim 21 for the limitations recited in claim 25.

Claim 26 depends from claim 21 and further recites that the means for laterally supporting the first end comprises a radially expandable stent. As discussed above with respect to claim 21, (1) Kornberg in view of Wisselink do not disclose or suggest a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a

longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen, and (2) Kornberg in view of Wisselink do not teach or suggest that the at least three branches extend from an intersection of the second end. Thus, claim 26 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies discussed with respect to claim 21 for the limitations recited in claim 26.

Claim 27 depends from claim 21 and further recites that the first end and the second end extend along a longitudinal axis and said intersection lies in a plane perpendicular to said longitudinal axis. As discussed above with respect to claim 21, (1) Kornberg in view of Wisselink do not disclose or suggest a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen, and (2) Kornberg in view of Wisselink do not teach or suggest that the at least three branches extend from an intersection of the second end. Thus, claim 27 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies discussed with respect to claim 21 for the limitations recited in claim 27.

Claim 29 depends from claim 21 and further recites that each of the at least three branches includes a graft layer. As discussed above with respect to claim 21, (1) Kornberg in view of Wisselink do not disclose or suggest a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen, and (2) Kornberg in view of Wisselink do not teach or suggest that the at least three branches extend from an intersection of the second end. Thus, claim 29 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies discussed with respect to claim 21 for the limitations recited in claim 29.

Claim 30 depends from claim 29 and further recites that each of the longitudinal support means of each of the branches is attached to the graft layer of each of the branches. As discussed above with respect to claim 21, (1) Kornberg in view of Wisselink do not disclose or suggest a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen,

and (2) Kornberg in view of Wisselink do not teach or suggest that the at least three branches extend from an intersection of the second end. Thus, claim 30 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies discussed with respect to claim 21 for the limitations recited in claim 30.

Claim 31 depends from claim 21 and further recites that each of the longitudinal support means for the at least three branches comprises a rod, and wherein each of the rods extend substantially the length of the branches. As discussed above with respect to claim 21, (1) Kornberg in view of Wisselink do not disclose or suggest a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen, and (2) Kornberg in view of Wisselink do not teach or suggest that the at least three branches extend from an intersection of the second end. Thus, claim 31 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies discussed with respect to claim 21 for the limitations recited in claim 31.

6. The 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 24, 28, 32-34.

Claims 24, 28, 32-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kornberg in view of Wisselink and Pinheiro.

Claim 24 depends from claim 23 and further recites that the graft layer of the first end comprises a biocompatible fabric that is formed from expanded polytetrafluoroethylene. Claim 24 is patentable over Kornberg in view of Wisselink and Pinheiro because (1) Kornberg in view of Wisselink and Pinheiro do not disclose or suggest a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen, and (2) Kornberg in view of Wisselink and Pinheiro do not teach or suggest that the at least three branches extend from an intersection of the second end.

As discussed above respect to claim 1, Kornberg teaches and shows that a flexible ring is provided at the upper end of the graft. A flexible ring does not extend substantially along the length of the central lumen. Moreover, Kornberg neither

teaches nor suggests a prosthesis that includes at least three branches that extend from a second end of the furcated graft. Kornberg teaches only a bifurcated graft with no mention of providing additional branches.

Wisselink, which is relied on by the Office Action to show that at least three branches may be provided in grafts, does not teach or suggest that at least three branches extend from an intersection at the second end of the prosthesis. Wisselink, for example, in Fig. 1f teach that the branches extend from lateral positions on the prosthesis, not a second end and not from a common intersection. Thus, Wisselink can not be relied on to teach or suggest that at least three branches extend from an intersection at the second end of the prosthesis.

Pinheiro also does not teach or suggest a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen, and an endovascular prosthesis that includes at least three branches that extend from an intersection of the second end.

Therefore, Kornberg, Wisselink, and Pinheiro fail to teach all the limitations of claim 24 and allowance of claim 24 is respectfully requested.

Claim 28 depends from claim 21 and further recites that each of the at least three branches has a substantially equal length. As discussed above with respect to claim 24, (1) Kornberg in view of Wisselink and Pinheiro do not disclose or suggest a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen, and (2) Kornberg in view of Wisselink and Pinheiro do not teach or suggest that the at least three branches extend from an intersection of the second end. Thus, claim 28 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies discussed with respect to claim 21 for the limitations recited in claim 28.

Claim 32 depends from claim 21 and further recites that the anchoring means comprises a bare stent. The bare stent extends from said first end. As discussed above with respect to claim 24, (1) Kornberg in view of Wisselink and Pinheiro do not disclose or suggest a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end

having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen, and (2) Kornberg in view of Wisselink and Pinheirodo not teach or suggest that the at least three branches extend from an intersection of the second end. Thus, claim 32 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies discussed with respect to claim 21 for the limitations recited in claim 32.

Claim 33 depends from claim 32 and further recites that the bare stent includes wall-engaging members that prevent migration of the endovascular prosthesis within the vasculature. As discussed above with respect to claim 24, (1) Kornberg in view of Wisselink and Pinheiro do not disclose or suggest a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen, and (2) Kornberg in view of Wisselink and Pinheirodo not teach or suggest that the at least three branches extend from an intersection of the second end. Thus, claim 33 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies discussed with respect to claim 21 for the limitations recited in claim 33.

Claim 34 depends from claim 32 and further recites that the wall-engaging members comprise at least two axially aligned barbs. As discussed above with respect to claim 24, (1) Kornberg in view of Wisselink and Pinheiro do not disclose or suggest a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen, and (2) Kornberg in view of Wisselink and Pinheirodo not teach or suggest that the at least three branches extend from an intersection of the second end. Thus, claim 34 is allowable because of the aforementioned deficiencies discussed with respect to claim 21 for the limitations recited in claim 34.

7. The 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 35-37, 39, 40, 56, and 67.

Claims 35-37, 39, 40, 56, and 67 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kornberg in view of Wisselink and White.

Claim 35 depends from claim 31 and further recites that the endovascular prosthesis comprises at least three outflow limbs. The at least three outflow limbs each has a first end and a second end, and a lumen extending between the first end and second end. The first ends of each of the at least three outflow limbs are connected to the at least three branches to allow fluid flow from the at least three branches through the outflow limbs.

As discussed above respect to claim 31, Kornberg in view of Wisselink do not disclose or suggest a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen, and Kornberg in view of Wisselink do not teach or suggest that the at least three branches extend from an intersection of the second end. Moreover, as discussed above with respect to claim 15, Kornberg in view of White et al. provide no motivation or suggestion to provide at least three outflow limbs that are connected to the branches of Kornberg and to form a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Therefore, Kornberg in view of Wisselink and White et al. fail to teach all of the limitations of claim 35 and allowance of claim 35 is respectfully requested.

Claim 36 depends from claim 35 and further recites that each of the at least three outflow limbs is tubular and includes a graft layer and an expandable support member and each of the expandable support members of the outflow limbs are attached to the graft layers of the outflow limbs.

As discussed above respect to claim 31, Kornberg in view of Wisselink do not disclose or suggest a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen, and Kornberg in view of Wisselink do not teach or suggest that the at least three branches extend from an intersection of the second end. Moreover, as discussed above with respect to claim 15, Kornberg in view of White et al. provide no motivation or suggestion to provide at least three outflow limbs that are connected to the branches of Kornberg

and to form a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Therefore, Kornberg in view of Wisselink and White et al. fail to teach all of the limitations of claim 36 and allowance of claim 36 is respectfully requested.

Claim 37 depends from claim 36 and further recites that each of the first ends of the at least three outflow limbs includes at least two axially aligned barbs. The at least two axially aligned barbs prevent distal and proximal migration of said outflow limb when said outflow limb is connected to said branch.

As discussed above respect to claim 31, Kornberg in view of Wisselink do not disclose or suggest a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen, and Kornberg in view of Wisselink do not teach or suggest that the at least three branches extend from an intersection of the second end. Moreover, as discussed above with respect to claim 15, Kornberg in view of White et al. provide no motivation or suggestion to provide at least three outflow limbs that are connected to the branches of Kornberg and to form a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Therefore, Kornberg in view of Wisselink and White et al. fail to teach all of the limitations of claim 37 and allowance of claim 37 is respectfully requested.

Claim 39 depends from claim 35 and further recites that each of the second ends of the at least three outflow limbs includes an anchoring means.

As discussed above respect to claim 31, Kornberg in view of Wisselink do not disclose or suggest a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen, and Kornberg in view of Wisselink do not teach or suggest that the at least three branches extend from an intersection of the second end. Moreover, as discussed above with respect to claim 15, Kornberg in view of White et al. provide no motivation or suggestion to

provide at least three outflow limbs that are connected to the branches of Kornberg and to form a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Therefore, Kornberg in view of Wisselink and White et al. fail to teach all of the limitations of claim 39 and allowance of claim 39 is respectfully requested.

Claim 40 depends from claim 35 and further recites that each of the second ends of the at least three outflow limbs is radially tapered.

As discussed above respect to claim 31, Kornberg in view of Wisselink do not disclose or suggest a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen, and Kornberg in view of Wisselink do not teach or suggest that the at least three branches extend from an intersection of the second end. Moreover, as discussed above with respect to claim 15, Kornberg in view of White et al. provide no motivation or suggestion to provide at least three outflow limbs that are connected to the branches of Kornberg and to form a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Therefore, Kornberg in view of Wisselink and White et al. fail to teach all of the limitations of claim 40 and allowance of claim 40 is respectfully requested.

Claim 56 depends from claim 50 and further recites that the furcated portion includes at least three branches and the endovascular prosthesis includes at least three outflow limbs. As discussed above respect to claim 51, Kornberg in view of Wisselink do not disclose or suggest a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a trunk portion and means for laterally supporting the trunk portion substantially along the length of the trunk portion, and Kornberg in view of Wisselink do not teach or suggest that the at least three branches extend from an intersection of the furcated portion. Moreover, as discussed above with respect to claim 50, Kornberg in view of White et al. provide no motivation or suggestion to provide at least three outflow limbs that are connected to the branches of Kornberg and to form

a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Therefore, Kornberg in view of Wisselink and White et al. fail to teach all of the limitations of claim 56 and allowance of claim 56 is respectfully requested.

Claim 67 depends from claim 61 and further recites that the furcated portion includes at least three branches and the endovascular prosthesis includes at least three outflow limbs. As discussed above respect to claim 51, Kornberg in view of Wisselink do not disclose or suggest a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a trunk portion and means for laterally supporting the trunk portion substantially along the length of the trunk portion, and Kornberg in view of Wisselink do not teach or suggest that the at least three branches extend from an intersection of the furcated portion. Moreover, as discussed above with respect to claim 50, Kornberg in view of White et al. provide no motivation or suggestion to provide at least three outflow limbs that are connected to the branches of Kornberg and to form a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen. Therefore, Kornberg in view of Wisselink and White et al. fail to teach all of the limitations of claim 67 and allowance of claim 67 is respectfully requested.

8. The 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claim 38.

Claims 38 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kronberg in view of White et al., Goicoechea et al., and Wisselink.

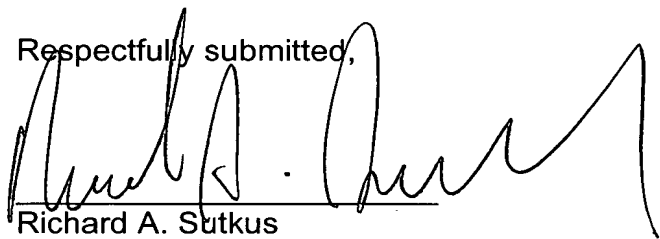
Claim 38 depends from claim 35 and further recites that the first ends of the at least three outflow limbs is radially tapered.

As discussed above respect to claim 35, Kornberg in view of Wisselink and White do not disclose or suggest a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen, and Kornberg in view of Wisselink⁶ do not teach or suggest that the at least three

branches extend from an intersection of the second end. Moreover, Goicoechea et al. do not teach or suggest a modular endovascular prosthesis that includes a first end having a longitudinally extending central lumen and means for laterally supporting the first end substantially along the length of the central lumen, and that the at least three branches extend from an intersection of the second end. Therefore, Goicoechea et al. fail to teach all of the limitations of claim 38 and allowance of claim 38 is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance, and allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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